

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1-15, of which claims 1, 7, 9, and 10 are independent. Claims 11-15 are newly added. No claims have been cancelled.

There is accompanying this Amendment an Information Disclosure Statement citing references cited in a European Search Report of a corresponding European application. Consideration of those references is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 stand allowed. As claim 7 has been amended solely to improve its form, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 7 and 8 remain in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In response, Applicants have substantially rewritten those claims subject to the rejection. In so doing, it is respectfully submitted that each of the grounds of rejection has been addressed and withdrawn.

New claims 11-15 depend from claim 9 and are therefore patentable for reasons that claim 9 was deemed patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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